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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0721/68
23 May 1968

Yugoslav Regime Again Denounces Opponents of Reform

Yugoslav party presidium member and Federal Assembly President, Milentije Popovic, unleashed the strongest attack by a high official in recent months against opponents of the regime's economic reforms, in an interview on 18 May. Popovic said that opponents of the reform have capitalized on Yugoslavia's increasing economic difficulties in turning economic complaints into political and ideological unrest. He denounced those who are afraid to lose their vested interests acquired in pre-reform days and reform supporters who have become faint hearted in the face of economic difficulty.

A similar attack was launched on 17 May by high-ranking Serbian party official Stevan Doronjski.

The two speeches, combined with Tito's rebuke to unnamed party leaders last March have led to speculation in Belgrade that major changes in party and government personnel may occur within a month or two. Difficulties within the party probably are responsible for the delay in convening a central committee session which is about three months overdue.

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Polish Trials May Lead to More Purges

Two trials, one in progress and the other upcoming, may be used by party hardliners to implicate and purge various regime officials.

The trial of Marian Kargul, a Jew accused of crimes "harmful to the state", opened on 20 May and is scheduled to run for a "few days." Specific charges against him include selling his influence within the Ministries of Health and of Finance, and illegal speculation in foreign currency. Both Minister of Health Sztachelski and Minister of Finance Albrecht have been obliquely attacked by hardline propaganda in recent weeks, and Kargul's trial may be intended as the coup de grace.

In a related development, the supreme military prosecutor's office announced on 22 May the formal indictment against Adam Henryk Kaczmarek, charged with being an "agent of British

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intelligence!" Kaczmarek, arrested last August, is accused of receiving pay for military secrets passed to the British while serving as a "civilian employee of a military institute." Both trials probably represent a hardline effort to regain the initiative in the purge campaign which appears to have slackened since early May.

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East German-Czechoslovak Press Battle Continues

Although direct East German criticism of the developments in Czechoslovakia has tapered off, the GDR press continues to give extensive coverage to events in Prague by re-running a considerable amount of Soviet and Polish material critical of the CSSR.

East German papers have carried the Soviet story rejecting Moscow's implication in the death of Jan Masaryk and the attack on Thomas Masaryk. They also carried Gomulka's indirect attack on Prague, and a few doctored Czechoslovak news items to give a completely distorted impression of events in Prague.

The Czechoslovaks, for their part, have fired back at the East Germans on a number of occasions. For example, the Berliner Zeitung story alleging that US tanks and troops were in Czechoslovakia was termed by Radio Prague as "psychological preparation of the local populace for the day when it is necessary to intervene" militarily in Czechoslovak affairs. Furthermore, earlier this month Rude Pravo, commenting on the East German travel bans on certain West Germans traveling to Berlin, claimed that the problem of access "basically" concerned the Soviets and the Allies, rather than the Germans.

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Paris Leftist Student Leader Visits Berlin

Danny (The Red) Cohn-Bendit, known as the "French Dutschke," addressed some 1,200 Free University students on 22 May. Cohn told the students that the situation in France was an example of how a student movement, if joined by the workers, could overthrow a strongly-entrenched "capitalist" system.

Although the audience seemed interested, there was only subdued applause and no wild emotional outbursts of the type generated by Rudi Dutschke. Cohn was interrupted by a student

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spokesman who made an appeal for 20 students to go to the Japan Institute building, occupied by the students since 20 May, for "guard duty." Only a half dozen students volunteered in spite of renewed appeals and chiding from the speakers.

[redacted] the next Free University building to be occupied by leftist students may be the Otto-Suhr Institute, where a teach-in was planned for last evening.

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US-Polish Cultural Exchanges Hampered by Warsaw

Polish political uncertainties evidently are contributing to an increasing trend of difficulties encountered by US cultural groups scheduled to perform in Poland.

The latest instance was the refusal on 21 May to issue Polish visas to the University of Kansas theater group. The group had already obtained sponsorship from the Warsaw and Krakow theater academies, which had accepted and scheduled its performances.

Although the US Embassy in Warsaw does not propose a tit-for-tat arrangement, it does recommend a delay or refusal of visas for a leading Polish soccer team--a dollar earner--which has five games scheduled in the US beginning in July.

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Bulgarian Foreign Minister Opposes Military Pacts

Bulgarian Foreign Minister, Ivan Bashev, reportedly favors the abolition of NATO and the Warsaw Pact and the withdrawal of the US and Soviet navies from the Mediterranean.

Bashev voiced these views in private talks with the Icelandic Foreign Minister during Bashev's 7-11 April visit to Iceland. Bashev's negative attitude toward the Warsaw Pact is a departure from the normal Bulgarian stance, and although his remarks may not represent official party policy, they probably are an accurate reflection of Bulgarian sentiment. Bashev's comments can also be interpreted in part as an effort to impress his hosts with Bulgaria's "independence" in order to improve Sofia's international image.

Bashev's support for the departure of the Soviet as well as the US fleet from the Mediterranean is also new.

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However, this theme is in line with Sofia's often preached policy for a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

East German Foreign Minister Ends Bulgarian Vacation

East German Foreign Minister Otto Winzer ended his Bulgarian vacation on 20 May. Winzer had been vacationing in Bulgaria since 26 April. Aside from the announcement of his arrival and a press item on 19 May that he had lunched with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Bashev, little is known of his activities during his four weeks in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian press claimed on 21 May, however, that Winzer and Bashev had "examined questions of bilateral relations" as well as the international situation during their meeting.

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